

Runge, Yevgeny Y.
(Lt. Col.)

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Evening Report

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EMBARRASSING DISCLOSURE

JIM CLARK: In Bonn, Germany, an embarrassing disclosure, and, perhaps, costly disclosure for western power today.

ABC's Jack Shahan reports.

SHAHAN: West German Counter Intelligence may never find out just how much prying Leonara Zuterland (?) did for the Soviet Union. The 39 year old secretary in the Bonn Ministry committed suicide in her jail cell here.

She and four other top agents operating here in Bonn were exposed by the latest Soviet defector. The man who had been the boss of those agents, Russian Lieutenant Colonel Yevgeny Runge, handed over all the names when he defected to the CIA here in West Germany.

Leonara Zuterland had worked in the administrative center of the Foreign Ministry.

Since 1962, she had been taking secret documents at lunch time. Her husband photographed them for the Soviet KGB. The husband had been sent here eight years ago to recruit a key secretary by marrying her. Mrs. Zuterland was the bride.

She is presumed to have delivered secret diplomatic codes under the personal files of the West German Foreign Service.

West German officials are visibly concerned about the information the late Leonara Zuterland turned over to the Russians. The diplomatic codes can be changed, but the personal files contain top secret information on the personal habits, weaknesses, and peccadilloes of West Germany's diplomats.

Mrs. Zuterland's suicide has led to special security measures for her husband, and three other suspects.

The spy ring included another husband and wife team working in the French Embassy here. The agents allegedly planted microphones in government buildings, and in the hotel rooms often used by foreign diplomats visiting Bonn.

It may be coincidence, but when a group of French officials arrived here to receive consultations today, they conferred on a steam boat sailing the Rhine River. Even the destination of the boat was kept secret.

Jack Shahan, Bonn.